

## Alan C. Ellsworth, M.S.

### Northeast Regional Hydrologist



As the new Northeast Region hydrologist, Alan Ellsworth is the principal point of contact for water-related issues, serving as liaison for the Washington Office, Water Resources Division. In this capacity he provides support for study planning and design, reviews resource impact plans, assists with funding proposals, and provides inter- and intra-agency contact assistance.

What Alan likes about his job is that “it allows me to be involved with a diverse array of water resource issues across a large region that was home to me until I was 25 years old. I interact with natural resource professionals from a variety of backgrounds and have been able to expand my knowledge and interests through the projects and support the National Park Service has provided me.”

Indeed, he is currently involved in a wide variety of water resource issues in geographically and hydrologically diverse settings. Locally, he has worked with Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey) on such issues as habitat flow needs (with a multiagency project), special protection water quality regulations, groundwater monitoring, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing.

Across the region he has been involved in a natural resource review for the general management plan of George Washington Birthplace National Monument (Virginia), overseen a stream sediment sampling project at Valley Forge National Historical Park (Pennsylvania), conducted field surveys and project evaluation for wetlands restoration at Minuteman National Historical Park (Massachusetts), and consulted with other agencies to establish stream impairment sampling protocols for Shenandoah National Park (Virginia).

Before accepting this appointment he worked in the western states for eight years at the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station as a physical scientist studying the effects of atmospheric deposition on alpine and subalpine watersheds. Returning to the Northeast for his new position, he says that although the larger parks of this region are spectacular, he has been most impressed by the natural resource protection afforded by small cultural parks in this largely urbanized corridor. ■

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**NPS staff since October 2002**

NPS Water Resources Division; Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Pennsylvania

#### PROFESSIONAL PROFILES

### water resources



Buford Dam marks the upstream boundary of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Georgia. The dam discharges water from the bottom of the reservoir, depressing water temperature in the Chattahoochee River, and has resulted in the elimination of many native fish species from the park. Fishery Biologist Jim Long takes part in water quantity negotiations among three states that will dictate new flow regimes from the dam. He ensures that park fishery issues are adequately considered during the negotiations. Hydrologist Alan Ellsworth and Aquatic Ecologist Brenda Moraska Lafrancois are also involved in lake level and river regulation issues in national parks of the Northeast and Great Lakes, respectively. Their efforts are focused on monitoring the ecological effects of regulated river flows and lake levels on park resources and enhancing aquatic habitat.